

Serial No.: 09/814,066



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Docket No. 20551/IJR (704001AA)

F. Knauseder

Serial No.: 09/814,066

Group Art Unit: No. 3673

Filed: June 21, 2001

Examiner: Michael Safavi

For: **FLOORING PANELS**

Box: Non-final amendment

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-20 as follows. A clean copy of amended claims 1-20 is provided below. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto in the attached separate sheet, entitled "Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claims."

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1. (Amended) A configuration for combining flat structural components of relatively low thickness along their narrow circumferential sides, where connecting members that interact on the tongue-and-groove principle are provided at the areas being connected, and the sides of the groove diverge from a groove base and converge at an end away from the groove base at an angle that is greater than an angle of divergence, where an opening width of the groove is greater than a foremost area of the tongue in a direction of insertion, which tongue exhibits wedge-shaped areas that diverge from front to back at the same angle as the sides of the groove, each of which wedge-shaped areas exhibits an undercut in a back area of the tongue that conforms to the

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